

An Act for the setting apart a Day of publique Thanksgiving, to be kept on Friday the Twenty sixth of this instant July: Together with a Declaration and Narrative, expressing the Grounds and Reasons thereof.

11 July 1650



He mighty Wonders that God hath wrought in and for *England*, and the multitude of Mercies with which he hath followed the Parliament throughout, in this great Cause which they have undertaken, for asserting and recovery of their just Rights and Liberties, with the Establishment of Truth and Righteousness, are always to be had in thankful Remembrance by us and our Posterities, and ought to endear this Commonwealth, after a most peculiar manner to seek the Lord, and become a people in whom his Soul may take delight: For he it is that hath removed our shoulders from the Burthen, and hath delivered us from Tyranny and Bondage; He hath gone forth with our Armies, and the Weapons that have been formed against us, He hath not suffered to prosper. A most eminent Example of this His Grace and Goodness to us, we have occasion at this time to celebrate in respect of *Ireland*, where God hath not onely begun his saving and delivering Work, to our Admiration, and the Astonishment of all our Enemies, but hath almost made an end, and that in a most glorious and remarkable manner, so as we may truly say, The Lord hath soon subdued our Enemies in that Nation, and turned his hand against our Adversaries; *The haters of the Lord have been found liars, and have not been able to stand in the day of Battel*; but those cruel and bloodthirsty men have had his just Vengeance so seasonably poured out upon them, that the Innocent Blood of the many thousands Protestants there slain since this Rebellion, hath been Revenged and Punished upon the prime and eminent Actors of it. God (that is *unsearchable in his counsels, and in his ways past finding out*) having called them to a strict Accompt, and *given them blood to drink*, of which they were worthy, *that all Nations may fear before him*, and take heed how they set themselves against him and his people. It is as yet very little more then Twelve Moneths, when *Dublin* and *London-Derry* were the onely considerable places in all *Ireland*, that remained under the Power of the Parliament; and those were so straitly block'd up and besieged by powerful Armies of the Enemies, that there was nothing left, but marvellous and extraordinary Appearances of God, whereby to set them free, and make passage, and give footing unto the Army sent last year from hence for the reduction of that Dominion; whose progress, by the Blessing of God hath been such, as that neither in Field nor Garison the Enemy is much considerable. The particulars of this last great Mercy given unto the Parliaments Forces under Sir *Charles Coote*, Lord President of *Connaught*, against the whole Army of Irish Rebels in *Ulster*, commanded by the Popish Bishop of *Clogher*, have been by an Express from the said Lord President certified to the Parliament, and are summ'd up in the Narrative following, and the Letters and Papers themselves herewith, and heretofore printed and made publique.

It having pleased God so to bless our Armies in *Lemster* and *Munster*, that the Enemy durst no longer keep the Field in those parts, The Irish Rebels (having reduced themselves into a Body meerly Popish, putting all Protestants, of what quality soever, from amongst them, and till when, they thought themselves less capable of Success or any Blessing) look'd upon the Province of *Ulster* as the fittest Refuge for their preservation and subsistence, where the Parliaments Forces lay scattered in smallest proportion, and (as the nature of that large countrey required) at greatest distances, and where the countrey was well-near wholly at their Devotion, the Papists (which in those parts are the most zealous, and therefore the first in the Rebellion, and most bloody in the Execution) upon their own account entirely, and the Scots upon their Kings, by whose Authority, and for whose Service this Army was raised; and therefore as by the last years experience they were sure of the Scots upon that Common Interest, so for their encouragement now, they did by many Declarations disperse amongst the Scots, assure them of Security and protection, if they continued to own the said Kings Authority. These Forces, which upon the death of *Owen Roe O Neal*, were destitute of a Commander, were supplied with *Ever mac Mahon* Bishop of *Clogher*, by Commission from *Ormond*, Authorized thereunto by *Charles Stuart*, Eldest Son to the late King, into whose Service and Protection they were taken, by a Treaty mentioned in the said Commission it self of the said *Ormonds*, herewith printed.

This is that Army, which while it was under the conduct of *Owen Roe* the last year, did occasion some jealousies and reproaches upon the proceedings of this present Parliament, as if they had been taken into their Service, and that such bloody Rebels should have been made use of against the Protestant party of English and Scots, then under the Command of *Ormond* and *Monroe*, that had declared themselves against the Parliament of *England*, as Sectaries, and Murtherers of the late King: And great use was made thereof by Ministers and others, not affected to this present Government, to alienate the mindes of men from their duty to this Parliament, and foment new Distractions and Divisions amongst us. But as we did then in the sight of God, and sincerity of our hearts, vindicate our innocency in reference to any such Designs, as by the Votes we then passed doth appear; so the vigorous and constant opposition all along maintained against them, and the thorow execution now done by our Forces upon them, gives an undeniable evidence of our cleanness therein, and leaves to future Ages, the marks of our just Indignation against them. This Army provided of this General about the end of *May* last, fell down into Sir *Charles Coote's* Quarters, and presently took by Storm a place upon the Frontier of *Ulster*, called *Dungeven*, where they put all to the Sword, except the Governor, whom they sent dangerously wounded to *Charlemount*; from thence they marched to *Bally Castle*, which was presently surrendered to them without opposition, by the treachery of some therein. These successes exceedingly puff up the Rebels, and made them considerable, not in their own eyes onely, but to the judgement of *Ormond*, *Clanrikard*, and the rest of their party, who therefore advise their General, by all means to keep off from putting things to the hazard of a Battel, having hopes upon this foundation, and by the well managing of this so well begun Success, to recover again, not onely their late Interest in, but the whole Dominion of *Ireland*: For though the Army in effective force did not consist of above Six hundred Horse and Four thousand Foot, yet they were reckoned Fourteen Regiments of Foot, and had Officers of all degrees proportionable to that number, which by their Interest in the countrey as aforesaid, and by the countenance of these successful beginnings, they might reasonably promise themselves, and by them upon the place it is believed, That within a very few days they would have gathered in a force of Soldiers, answerable to those Officers: In the mean time, all the force that the Lord President of *Connaught* could draw into the Field to resist this powerful inroad (leaving the Garisons tolerably provided for) was but Eighteen hundred Foot and Six hundred Horse, whereof One thousand Foot came up to him under Colonel *Fennick*, but three days before he engaged the Enemy: But *England* may say as well as *Israel*, *It is as easie with the Lord to save with few as with many*; who was pleased to put such zeal and courage into the Soldiers of the Parliament, that on the One and twentieth of *June* last, they marched up towards this Army (so exceeding them in number, and heightened in Resolution by late Successes) as it lay encamped near *Letterkenny* upon the side of a Mountain, inaccessible either for Horse or Foot; upon sight of which, the Enemy drew forth upon a piece of ground (being indeed inticed thereunto by the giving back of some of our Forlorn-hopes (ordered for that purpose so to do) and though that ground were extremely bad, yet it pleased God to put it into the hearts of our forces, with that small Body to advance towards them, where they presently engaged them, and by the wonderful blessing of God, after an hours hot dispute, even to push of pike, with great resolution on both sides, the Enemy was totally Routed, many of them killed upon the place, and the Execution pursued 10 or 11 miles every way that night; so as the number computed to be slain that day in the pursuit, and the next day, was 3000 at the least; in which action were slain and taken prisoners most of their Officers, from the highest to the lowest, few escaping; and many of the heads of the principal Septs or families in that country of the old Irish Rebels, some of whom are since executed, & their heads set upon the walls of *Londonderry* for the terror of others, & as monuments of Gods goodness in their over-